

U.S. Congressman Mike Pence talked about the proposed Democrat tax hikes today on Meet the Press:

Excerpts:

On Tax Cuts

“There's no question that there should be no higher priority for the Congress of the United States today than making sure that no American sees a tax increase in January of 2011, not one. I have to tell you, for all of the world, this seems like a moment where Congress is putting politics ahead of prosperity. What they're proposing here, even if they found some way to just extend middle class tax relief, would be an enormous tax increase in January on job creators in this country. Higher taxes won't get people hired. Raising taxes on job creators won't create jobs. The American people know that. Let me say one last thing. I think it would be unconscionable for this Congress to adjourn without giving the bipartisan majority in the Congress who want to extend all current tax relief an up or down vote.

“Job one needs to be to create jobs. The American people know the last thing you want to do in the worst economy in 25 years is raise taxes on small business owners and family farmers. We have to vote before Congress adjourns for the political season on an up or down vote. More than 30 Democrats support extending all of the current tax relief. We're calling on Speaker Pelosi and leaders like Chris, give us an up or down vote, let the Congress work its will and give the American people certainty that there will be no tax increase.”

“If the current tax relief was enough to get this economy moving again, the economy would be moving. And it's not. What Chris and the Democrats in Congress and the administration continue to insist on is a tax increase in January of 2011. I want to stipulate to the point. That's why Republicans in the 'Pledge to America' called for a 20 percent business deduction on all business income immediately to be voted on in this Congress. We think there needs to be more pro-growth tax relief to get the economy moving again, but for heavens sakes, let's not raise taxes on job creators.

“Number one, I think you rule out tax increases because our problem isn't that the American people are taxed too little. Our problem is that Washington spends too much. In the 'Pledge to America,' we call for cutting discretionary spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels. Cutting the amount of funding allocated to Congress, freezing all pay on non-security federal employees, ending federal control of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, ending TARP. That would save \$1 trillion over ten years alone. Reducing the discretionary spending, back to those 2008 levels; that would save \$100 billion this year. “

On the “Pledge to America”

“Well, ending bailouts and cutting spending in Washington, D.C. is a new idea, David. And the truth is, Republicans didn't lose our majority in 2006, we lost our way. We walked away from the principles of fiscal discipline and reform that minted our governing majority back in 1980 and again in 1994. And the American people walked away from us. What we have in this proposal is not necessarily new. The idea of fiscal responsibility, pro-growth policies, openness and transparency in government are solid American ideas. What Republicans are committing to in the 'Pledge to America,' is taking important first steps in this Congress to steer our national government back to the basic practices and principles.

“Let me assure you, the 'Pledge to America' is not the end all be all. It's meant to be a good start.”